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St. Mary's University School of Law

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LawNotes

The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

Fall 2006

Law School Accepting Applications to Evening Law Program

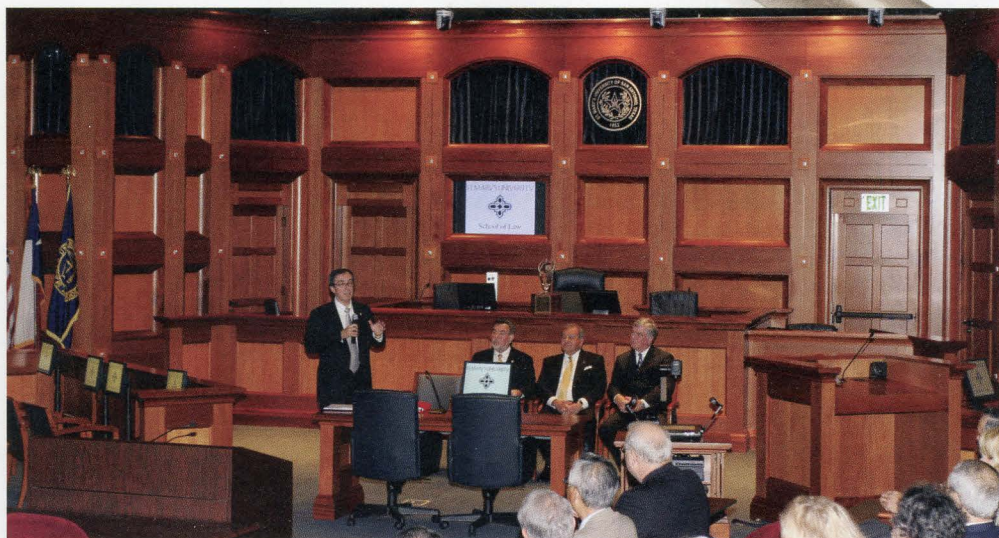
The School of Law is now accepting applications to the evening law program, which will be re-established in the fall of 2007 in a move that is expected to attract professionals and others who might not be able to attend day classes. Enrollment will be capped at approximately 75 students.

Restarting the evening program, which received approval from the American Bar Association this past summer, extends the school's mission of serving the broader community, said Bill Piatt, dean.

"Over the last several years, we have received numerous inquiries about the possibility of bringing back the evening program. There are many people out there in the communities we serve who would like to pursue a legal education but can't because they have to work or for other reasons," Piatt said. "Our evening program allows individuals with substantial work and life experiences to pursue a legal education with the scheduling and flexibility many require."

Currently, the nearest evening law programs are in Dallas and Houston. But law school administrators said they decided to re-establish the evening program at St. Mary's, which discontinued accepting evening students in 1971, because they received tremendous interest from many people about an evening law program in South Texas. In the past year alone, school administrators have received more than 400 inquiries from a variety of potential students, including doctors, soldiers, homemakers and employees of some of San Antonio's largest employers.

Continued on page 4 ►



Bill Piatt, dean, explains courtroom enhancements at preview.

New Courtroom Unveiled Sneak Preview Held to Show Off Facility

St. Mary's University School of Law held a sneak preview and open house this fall of its \$1.6 million courtroom where students will get the opportunity to learn advocacy in one of the most technologically advanced university courtrooms in the country.

The project came in on schedule and within budget, said Bill Piatt, dean of the School of Law. A formal dedication ceremony of the facility is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007.

"This is truly a first-class, state-of-the-art courtroom that will give our students the opportunity to learn advocacy in one of the best, if not the best, law school courtrooms in the country," Piatt said. "They will be able to use the technology in this courtroom that they will encounter in real-world settings."

The courtroom was made possible through the generous support of many

Continued on page 4 ►

Law School Fetes TYLA Moot Court Champions

St. Mary's law students in June won the Texas Young Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition at the State Bar Convention in Dallas, the most prestigious advocacy competition in the State of Texas. They were honored with a celebration this fall in the school courtyard.

Alison Hicks, who received her juris doctor degree in May, and third-year law students Halina Radchenko and Kimberly Phillips defeated a team from South Texas College of Law in the final round. All nine

The TYLA trophy comes back home. St. Mary's students have won the championship twice in the past four years. See page 12 for a photo of the winning team.



law schools in Texas fielded teams in this year's competition. Phillips also was recognized as the best

Continued on page 8 ►

Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni,

Our efforts are coming to fruition!

We celebrated our victory in the Texas Young Lawyers Moot Court Competition where we placed first out of all law schools in Texas. This is the second time in four years that we have won the championship, and it is not going to be the last!

Our courtroom is breathtaking. We held a preview for the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, our donors, faculty, staff and students. A dedication ceremony will be held Jan. 31, 2007, at which time we will begin webcasting oral arguments of the Supreme Court of Texas.

We are hard at work putting the finishing touches on our evening program. Beginning in August 2007, we will reduce the size of our entering class by eliminating the bottom 25 percent of the class. (That fact alone will produce spectacular bar passage rates for us in 2010.) We will bring approximately 75 evening students into our law school, representing the cream of the crop in this area.

San Antonio is currently the largest metropolitan area in the country without an evening program. There is no program of this nature in Austin, either. As a result, we have a population of almost 3 million who do not presently have access to an evening law program. That all changes next fall. Already we are working with the San Antonio Bar Association, numerous other organizations, and with our recruiting offices to identify the most eligible individuals to enroll in this program.



Bill Piatt, Dean and Ryan Professor of Law

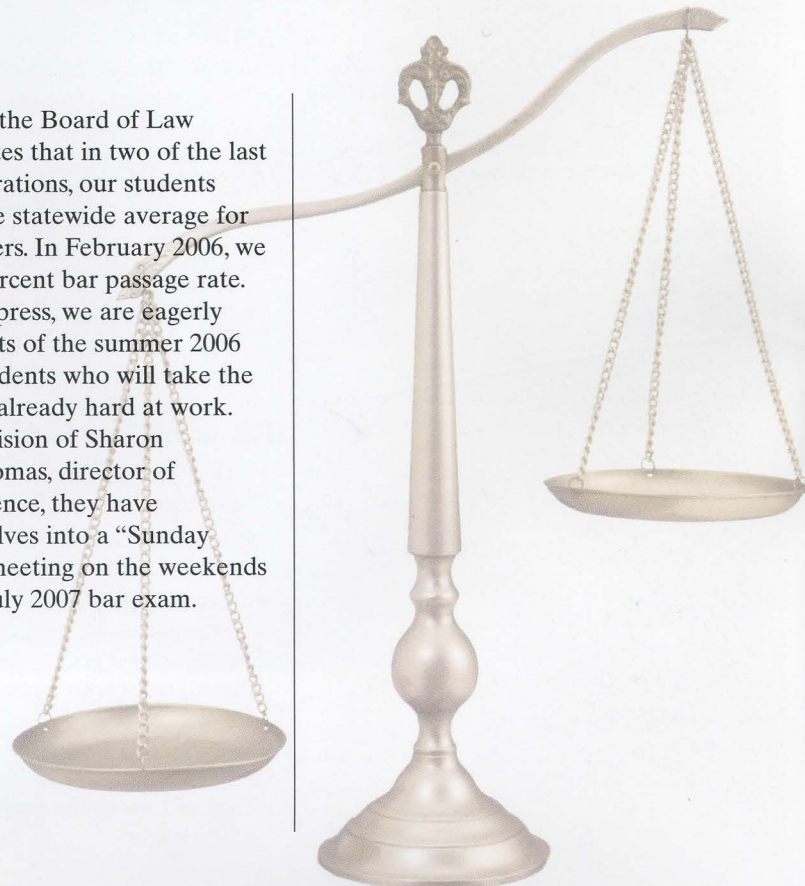
A statistical survey by the Board of Law Examiners indicates that those students who begin preparation six months in advance have a higher chance of success on the exam. Our students are going that one better; more than 100 of our students have been meeting on Sundays 10 months ahead of the exam and they will continue to do so in anticipation of making them and us proud next year.

Our summer 2007 Innsbruck institute will feature U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. I will have the privilege of assisting him in his course on Comparative Constitutional Law. We also are planning an alumni CLE event – perhaps we'll see you in the Alps.

You can almost touch the very positive spirit at our school. We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments. The faculty, staff and I invite you to visit us, see our new courtroom, interact with our students, and bask in the glow of your very successful alma mater. ■

Official data of the Board of Law Examiners indicates that in two of the last four bar administrations, our students have exceeded the statewide average for first-time test takers. In February 2006, we achieved an 81 percent bar passage rate.

As this goes to press, we are eagerly awaiting the results of the summer 2006 bar exam. The students who will take the exam in 2007 are already hard at work. Under the supervision of Sharon Breckenridge-Thomas, director of Academic Excellence, they have organized themselves into a "Sunday School" and are meeting on the weekends to study for the July 2007 bar exam.



St. Mary's Honors Casseb, Green as 2006 Distinguished Law Graduates

The St. Mary's Law Alumni Association honored attorney Joseeph Casseb and Texas Supreme Court Justice Paul W. Green with the Distinguished Law Graduate Award at a dinner in their honor on Friday, Oct. 20.

Casseb, a partner with Goode Casseb Jones Riklin Choate & Watson in San Antonio, and Green, who joined the court in 2004, both graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1977.

Before going into private practice, Casseb was an assistant district attorney in Bexar County and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Texas. He is a past president of the San Antonio Bar Association, a former chairman of the San Antonio Bar Foundation and served as a director of the

State Bar of Texas. He also served as president of the St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association and on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's University.

Before he was elected to the Texas Supreme Court, Green served 10 years as a justice on Texas' Fourth District Court of Appeals in San Antonio.

Previously Green practiced law for 17 years with the firm of Green McReynolds & Green in San Antonio.

Green has served as president of the San Antonio Bar Association, director of the State Bar of Texas and was a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates. He is a sustaining life fellow of the San Antonio and Texas Bar foundations. ■



Joe Casseb



Paul W. Green

Crump Sworn in as TYLA President



Wallace Jefferson swears in Karin Crump.

Karin Crump (J.D. '92), an attorney with Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom LLP in Austin, is sworn-in as president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association of the State Bar of Texas by Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson of the Texas Supreme Court this past summer at

the state bar convention. Also during the convention, alumnae Elizabeth Caples Rogers (J.D. '88) was sworn-in as general counsel of the State Bar of Texas. ■



Praying for Good Bar Results

Mike Simpson (J.D. '98), far left, with the Christian Legal Society, shares a light-hearted moment during a prayer with St. Mary's students prior to the three-day Texas Bar Exam this past July at the Alzafar Shrine Temple. Results of the latest test are expected in November.

Records of the Texas Board

of Law Examiners confirm that the bar passage rate of first-time examinees from St. Mary's has exceeded the statewide average passing rate on two recent administrations of the Texas Bar Exam, in July 2004 and February 2006 with respective rates of 79.87 percent and 80.77 percent. ■

New Courtroom Unveiled

► Continued from page 1

donors, including a \$300,000 challenge grant from the AT&T Foundation, as well as law firms, alumni, the Law Alumni Association, St. Mary's University, and faculty and staff of the law school.

The original courtroom was constructed in the 1960s and many distinguished St. Mary's graduates, including jurists on the state's highest courts, learned the essentials of advocacy there. However, it had received only minor cosmetic



The newly renovated courtroom provides access to advanced programs and training.

enhancements over the past 40 years.

A key component of the new courtroom includes the latest computer and audiovisual technologies with computer monitors at each counsel table and at the judges' bench, sophisticated sound and video systems, and document cameras and plasma

screens for viewing exhibits offered into evidence. These will allow for hands-on learning experiences as well as the ability to videotape students for playback evaluation and feedback.

Additionally, the new technology provides access to remote transmissions of trials and proceedings from federal and state courts.

With access to advanced programs and training made possible by the courtroom, graduates of St. Mary's University School of Law will be well prepared to enter a workforce that is expected to be proficient and comfortable working within a technological environment in the nation's 21st century courtrooms. ■



From left, Bill Piatt, law school dean; Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., St. Mary's University president; Texas Supreme Court Justice Paul Green; and Ruben M. Escobedo, chairman of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, were on hand for the preview of the law school's new courtroom.

Law School Accepting Applications to Evening Law Program

► Continued from page 1

"The law school is one of St. Mary's University's and San Antonio's greatest assets," added St. Mary's President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. "We are committed to a law school of the highest quality, accessible to working men and women and others who are not able to attend day classes for a variety of reasons. This move will make that possible."

Some 75 part-time students will be enrolled in the evening program. At the same time, the number of first-year students will be reduced to about 200 from the current level of 260 first-year students.

"That will enable us to improve the academic program at the law school by raising the academic profile of our student body," Piatt said, adding that he expects bar exam results

will see a corresponding rise in the years to come.

It will take evening students about four years to complete their legal education instead of three years for full-time students. Students will attend classes Monday through Thursday during early evening hours. Law professors will teach both day and evening classes. All programs and offices, including the clinical program, will be available to evening students as well.

Acceptance and graduation requirements will be the same for students in both programs.

The law school was founded in October 1927 as the San Antonio School of Law by the San Antonio Bar Association. In 1934, it was officially transferred to St. Mary's University and housed at the downtown campus at 112

Program Details

Classes: Monday-Thursday, early evenings

Length of Study: Four years (no more than seven)

Graduation Requirements: Same for students in the full-time and evening programs

Accreditation: All programs of the St. Mary's University School of Law are approved by the American Bar Association

Admission: First-year admission only occurs in the fall of each year

College St. Originally offering only evening classes, the law school's day division was not established until 1936. The law school moved to the main University campus in 1968, and in 1971 the evening program was discontinued. ■

St. Mary's to Hold Summer Innsbruck CLE

Much has been written on the process of globalization and its effects on international and individual state law. As businesses seek new markets internationally, this has created a growing demand for legal expertise in cross-cultural legal systems.

Now, St. Mary's University School of Law alumni, friends and family can take advantage of a unique opportunity to attend a continuing legal education program July 2-8, 2007 that will coincide with a well-established program on international legal issues in Innsbruck, Austria.

This land-only package starts in Innsbruck with a welcoming dinner in the Alps overlooking the city. The CLE classes begin July

3. The group will depart for Salzburg on July 5 and head to Munich on July 7. Participants will check out of their hotel on July 8, and are free to return to the United States or continue traveling on their own.

The CLE is scheduled to coincide with St. Mary's 22nd Institute on World Legal Problems, which will feature U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as the Distinguished Visiting Jurist. A social and session with Scalia is scheduled during the CLE program.

Prominent St. Mary's law faculty will explore various interrelated themes on issues facing the legal profession and initiate a dialogue on how globalization is fundamentally changing the work, lives and professional opportunities of lawyers in the United States and abroad.

The CLE program and tour is co-sponsored by the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association and is arranged by St. Mary's Roamin' Rattlers Travel Program. Spouses and families are welcome, as are members of the legal community. Daytime tours of Innsbruck will be sponsored for those not



Innsbruck, Austria

attending the CLE program.

The travel package, which will include hotel accommodations and some meals, is priced at \$1,599. A donation for the CLE will be used for student room and board scholarships that have been established through the Sarah Thompson Innsbruck Scholarship Fund.

For more information or a brochure call (210) 436-3063 or (210) 436-3308. Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., law minister, is assisting with program arrangements and can be contacted at gwall@stmarytx.edu. ■



U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia

Cordova, Walle Recognized at Law Day

Kristal Cordova (J.D. '02) and Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., D.Min., (B.A. '77) law minister at the School of Law, were honored at the San Antonio Bar Association's Law Day luncheon. Ramon Molina, vice president of the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, presented the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year award to Cordova, in recognition of her professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community.

Walle received the Liberty Bell award, which is presented to a non-lawyer who significantly engaged in community service that instills better understanding and appreciation of the law. ■



Kristal Cordova, Sister Grace Walle and Ramon Molina

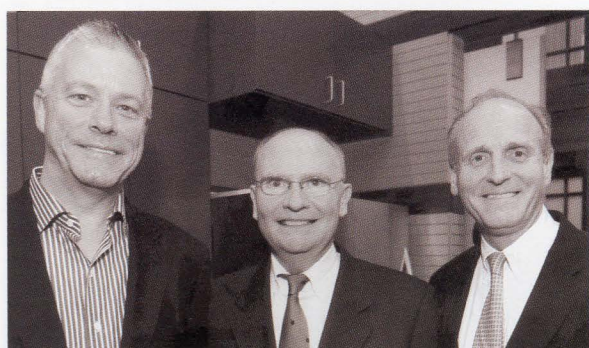


Jammin' with the Court Jesters

Bill Piatt (center), law school dean, jammed with the Court Jesters band at the San Antonio Bar Association's annual Installation Gala this fall. Piatt joined band members (left to right) Judge Mark Luitjen (J.D. '80); Joe Casseb (J.D. '77); and Steve Barrera. ■

Missouri Alumni Attend Post Office Dedication

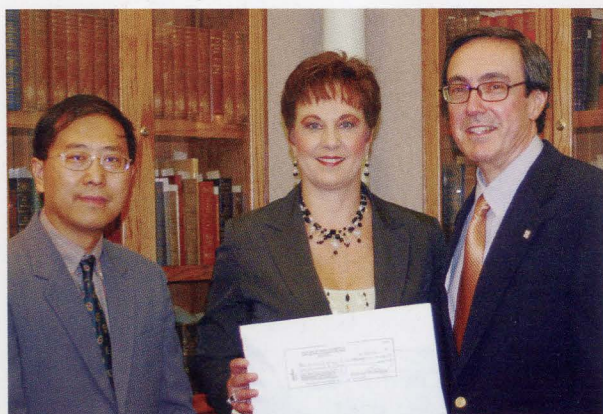
Three St. Mary's School of Law alumni from Missouri attended the rededication of the historic Old Post Office in St. Louis this past spring which houses the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District. At the dedication were: Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder (J.D. '79), St. Louis Aldermanic President James F. Shrewsbury (J.D. '82), and Missouri Court of Appeals Judge James Dowd (J.D. '77). ■



Peter Kinder, James Shrewsbury and James Dowd

S.A. Bar Construction Law Section Donates to Library

The San Antonio Chapter of the Construction Law Section of the San Antonio Bar Association donated \$1,000 to the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library to start a construction law section. Katherine Yates (J.D. '83), of CPS Energy and immediate past chair of the local chapter, presented the donation to Bob Hu, library director, and Bill Piatt, dean of the School of Law. ■



Bob Hu, Katherine Yates and Bill Piatt

Schlueter Testifies Before Senate Armed Services Committee



David Schlueter

Law Professor David Schlueter testified this summer before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, D.C. on a case involving military commissions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

In *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the military commission convened to try Salim Ahmed Hamdan, Osama bin Laden's former driver, violated the UCMJ and the Geneva Conventions. In particular, the court was concerned about the ability of the commission to exclude the defendant from portions of his trial for security reasons.

Congress is considering whether to amend the UCMJ to address the President's authority to convene military commissions, and if so, what rules should be applied. Schlueter testified that Congress could remedy the issues raised in the Hamdan case by making two amendments to the UCMJ and recommended specific language for doing so.

Schlueter, who has taught at St. Mary's since 1983, is a national expert on military criminal justice. He is a retired Army Judge Advocate General reservist, has authored or co-authored four books on military criminal procedure, and has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and many other courts and commentators. ■

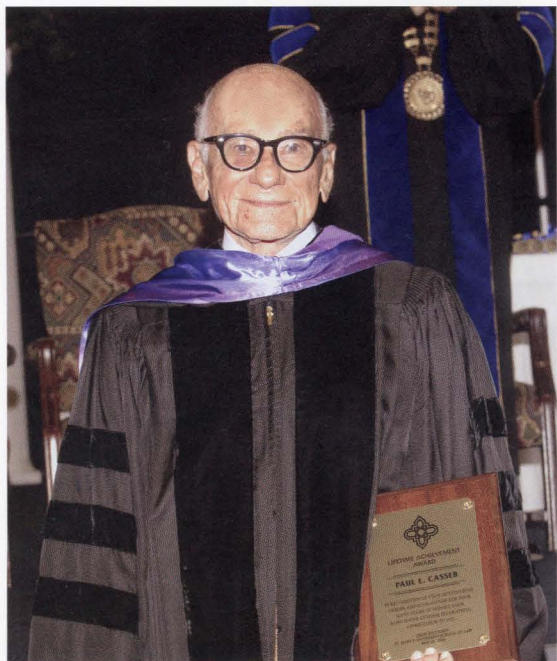
Center for Terrorism Law Dedicates Office Complex

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, a 1987 graduate of the School of Law, spoke at the dedication ceremony this fall of the new office complex of the Center for Terrorism Law in the Ernest A. Raba Building. The center, created in October 2003 and formally opened in 2004, received a \$1 million anonymous gift to construct the new facilities, which include office space, one classroom and



U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul

multimedia room and a conference area. The center, dedicated to the study of legal issues associated with terrorism with particular emphasis on cyberspace and information assurance technologies, recently received a grant from the Department of Defense to study state information laws to determine how various state governments have chosen to balance the issue of increased security concerns and the protection of civil liberties. ■



Paul Casseb

Paul Casseb Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Paul Casseb, a 1941 graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law, received the Lifetime Achievement Award during graduation ceremonies. He was honored for his immeasurable support to the law school for more than 60 years as well as his service to the community. He received the St. Mary's Distinguished Law Graduate award in 1973.



Paul Casseb, center, is congratulated on his achievement by Pat Legan (left), a 1946 graduate of the law school, and Bill Piatt, dean.



Paul Casseb is surrounded by his family and friends after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the St. Mary's School of Law this past spring.

Portrait of Angelini Joins Distinguished Alums in Library

Bill Piatt, law school dean, and Justice Karen Angelini (J.D. '80) of the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals, stand with Angelini's portrait that was unveiled in the Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library this fall where it hangs in recognition of her many contributions to the School of Law and the community. Angelini has been on the Fourth Court since 1997. She was honored as a Distinguished Law Graduate in 2005 and gave the commencement address at the 2004 law graduation ceremony. She served as president of the Law Alumni Association from 2002-03. Angelini was president of the San Antonio Bar Association in 2004-2005 and currently serves on the board of trustees of the San Antonio Bar Foundation and as a member of the Texas Bar Foundation. ■



Bill Piatt and Karen Angelini

Law School Fetes TYLA Moot Court Champions

► *Continued from page 1*

advocate at the competition.

This marks the second time in the past four years that St. Mary's has won the championship. A St. Mary's team took the title in 2002, the same year St. Mary's students won the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition.

"This is another confirmation that the External Advocacy Program at St. Mary's is among the best in the state. I congratulate our coach, our team, and our school," said Bill Piatt, dean of the law school, adding that students now get to practice advocacy at St. Mary's in one of the most technologically enhanced courtrooms in the country.

"I am very proud of these fine EAP moot court students who have brought well-deserved recognition to St. Mary's," added coach Ricky Poole, a 1990 graduate of the School of Law and a member of the championship moot court team that won the title in 1989.

"In the last seven years, St. Mary's External Advocacy Program moot court teams have reached the semifinals or better of this most prestigious state competition six times, three of those times reaching the final round, and winning two championships out of those three finals appearances. We look forward to defending our title next year," he said. ■

Goldstone to Speak Nov. 6 on International Criminal Justice

Former South African Constitutional Court Justice Richard Goldstone will speak on "The Future of International Criminal Justice" at St. Mary's School of Law at noon on Monday, Nov. 6 in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

Goldstone, a global visiting professor of law at New York University School of Law and chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, was the Distinguished Visiting Jurist at the St. Mary's University Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria in the summer of 2005.

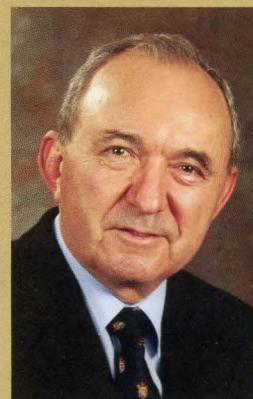
The world renowned jurist also was a chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. He is a recipient of the American Bar Association's International Human Rights Award and numerous honorary degrees.

He served on the South African court from 1994 to 2003 and served on the U.N. tribunal from 1994 to 1996.

He previously was appointed the co-chairperson of the International Task Force on Terrorism, which was established by the International Bar Association, and in April 2004 the

secretary-general of the United Nations appointed Goldstone to the independent committee to investigate the Iraqi oil-for-food program.

The public is invited to attend his talk. ■



Richard Goldstone

Law School Listed Among Nation's Best: Princeton Review Ranks School Seventh for 'Most Competitive Students'

St. Mary's University School of Law is listed as one of the country's best law schools and its students are among the most competitive in the nation, according to a survey released by The Princeton Review.

The school ranks seventh nationally for "most competitive students" in the publication's 2007 edition of the "Best 170 Law Schools." The publication chose the schools "based on our high regard for their academic programs and offerings, institutional data we collect from the schools, and the candid opinions of students attending them who rate and report on their campus experiences at the schools," said Robert Franek, vice president for publishing.

"We have raised the bar over the past several years," said Bill Piatt, dean of the law school. "This shows that our students are taking their jobs very seriously. They understand that law school is a demanding regiment. I think the work ethic they are showing will pay off for them as they pursue their studies, enter the legal profession and

pursue their careers."

The ranking was compiled over the past three academic years and is based on surveys of 17,000 students attending the 170 listed law schools.

In the "most competitive students" category, students were asked to assess the number of hours they and their peers spend studying outside of class each day and the degree of competitiveness among law students at their school.

"The St. Mary's School of Law strives to educate students to become competent and ethical practitioners of the law with a sense of community and civic engagement," said Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., president of St. Mary's University. "This national recognition speaks to the dedication our law school students have to succeed."

The Princeton Review does not rank the schools in the book on a single hierarchical list from 1 to 170, or name one law school best overall. Instead it has 11 ranking lists of the top 10 law schools in various categories. ■

1940s

- 1949 **Stephen W. Blount III, J.D.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 20, 2006. **Leo C. Tynan Jr., J.D.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 20, 2006. The Hon. **Waldo E. Ximenes, J.D.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 11, 2005.

1950s

- 1952 **Abel Toscano Jr., J.D.**, Harlingen, died Nov. 27, 2005.
- 1956 **Othoniel "Tony" Armendariz, J.D.**, San Antonio, died March 30, 2006.

1960s

- 1960 **Ramon Garcia Jr., J.D.**, San Antonio, died March 25, 2006.

1970s

- 1971 **J. Robert Brown, J.D.**, El Paso, president and chairman of the board of Desert Eagle Distributing, is serving a six-year term on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. **Donato D. Ramos, J.D., B.B.A. '68**, an attorney in Laredo and a member of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, is vice chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- 1972 **Keith E. Kaiser, J.D.**, an attorney in the San Antonio offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., was named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Super Lawyers" list.
- 1973 **Dave Haigler, J.D.**, Abilene, has been appointed an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. **Phillip R. Summerfield, J.D.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 8, 2006.
- 1977 **Jon R. Ray, J.D.**, an attorney in the San Antonio offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., was named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Super Lawyers" list.
- 1978 **Rebecca A. Gregory, J.D.**, Dallas, has been appointed judge of the 283rd Judicial District Court serving Dallas County. **Charles H. Rennick, J.D.**, Los Alamos, N.M., is assistant county attorney in Los Alamos County. **John M. Vernon, J.D.**, Dallas, is a name partner with Vernon & Goodrich LLP.

1980s

- 1980 **Mark G. Daniel, J.D.**, an attorney with the Fort Worth law firm of Evans, Gandy, Daniel & Moore, has been sworn in as president of the Tarrant County Bar Association. **Harry W. Wolff Jr., J.D.**, an

attorney in the San Antonio offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., was named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Super Lawyers" list.

- 1981 **Steven W. Bruneman, J.D.**, Dallas, has formed the law firm of Bruneman, Lake & Griffin LLP. **Mary M. Potter, J.D.**, an attorney in the San Antonio offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., was named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Super Lawyers" list. **Lawrence Skurth, J.D.**, San Antonio, is a shareholder in the law firm of Clark, Thomas & Winters PC.
- 1984 The Hon. **Shay Teresa Gebhardt, J.D.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 18, 2005.
- 1987 **Anthony C. Benedetto, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an attorney with the law firm of Talbott, Adams & Moore Inc. **David S. Goldberg, J.D.**, Fort Worth, is senior vice president-chief legal officer and corporate secretary at RadioShack Corp. **Ronald D. Kocian, J.D.**, Brenham, died May 25, 2005.
- 1988 The Hon. **Rose Rivera Vela, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, 148th District Court Judge, was honored with Las Estrellas Award by the Corpus Christi chapter of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas.
- 1989 **Michael D. Harbart, J.D., B.A. '86**, Fredericksburg, Va., an associate attorney for the Defense Contract Management Agency in Alexandria, married Tara Rockwell, Sept. 4, 2005. **Nina E. Henderson, J.D.**, San Antonio, died March 19, 2006.

1990s

- 1990 **Kathryn M. Kase, J.D.**, Houston, staff attorney for Texas Defender Service, has been elected to membership in the American Law Institute.
- 1991 **Margaret M. Fent, J.D.**, Columbia, S.C., assistant solicitor in the Richland County Fifth Circuit Solicitors Office, married Matthew Day Bodman Oct. 15, 2005. The Hon. **Charles E. Montemayor, J.D.**, San Antonio, was appointed associate judge for Texas District Courts' Children's Court for Bexar County. **James E. Satel, J.D.**, is a partner with the San Antonio law offices of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP.
- 1992 **Craig S. Comeaux, J.D.**, San Antonio, vice president and deputy general counsel for Argonaut Group Inc., has been selected by the board of directors to serve as secretary. **C. Lee Cusenbary Jr., J.D.**, San Antonio, general counsel to Mission Pharmacal Co., has been elected president of the Association of Corporate Counsel, and joined the Texas General Counsel Forum Board of Directors. **Christia "Chris" Parr Mitchell, J.D.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 23, 2006.
- 1993 **Joan Ely Carlson, J.D.**, Austin, and her husband, David Carlson, welcome Clara Jane, born Dec. 5, 2005. **Renée F. McElhaney, J.D.**, an attorney with the San Antonio offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., was named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Super Lawyers" list, and received the 2005 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award given by the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation to a woman for contributions to the legal profession. **Lisa Horvath Shub, J.D.**, was named to Scene Monthly magazine's 2005 listing of "Rising Stars in San Antonio's Legal Community."
- 1994 **Susan E. Anderson, J.D.**, elected president of the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, has joined the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Board of Directors. **Albert Martin Gutierrez, J.D.**, has opened his own law firm in San Antonio.
- 1995 **Christopher Lee Green, J.D., M.A.**, Angleton, a State Department foreign service officer, is assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. **J. Brett Harrison, J.D.**, Tyler, is a partner in the law firm of Bain, Files, Jarrett, Bain, & Harrison. **John D. Love, J.D.**, Tyler, is magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas.
- 1996 **Barbara A. Armstrong, J.D., B.A. '88**, Fort Worth, named to Texas Monthly's 2005 "Texas Rising Stars" list for the second consecutive year, joined the law firm of Kay Lynne Boll & Associates and O'Neal Mediations. **Leroy R. Medford, J.D., B.A. '93**, Laredo, has been appointed chief public defender for Webb County. **Linda Everett Moyé, J.D.**, Chesapeake, Va., is special assistant to the president at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton. **James M. "Marty" Truss, J.D.**, an attorney with the San Antonio law offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., has been named to Texas Monthly's 2006 "Texas Rising Stars" list.
- 1997 **Tori S. Bryant, J.D.**, Yuma, Ariz., has published her first novel, "Mom, Esq. An Introduction to the Madness." **Kelly B. Fitzgerald, J.D.**, Laredo, an attorney with Coastal Bend Legal Services, was elected to the board of directors of Casa de Misericordia, a women's shelter run by the Sisters of Mercy. **Angela M. Sanchez, J.D.**, and **Anthony Sanchez, J.D. '00**, San Antonio, welcome Caleb Anthony, born June 30, 2005.
- 1998 **Scott B. Bankler, J.D.**, an attorney with the San Antonio law offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., has been named to Texas Monthly's 2006 "Texas Rising Stars" list. **Miguel J. Chapa, J.D.**, San Antonio, has

formed the law firm of Chapa & Nevarez PC, while his wife, **Luz Elena (de la Garza) Chapa, J.D.** '99, B.A. '95, is a stay-at-home mom with 1-and-a-half-year-old Luz Elena "Tresita." **Nadira Khan-Wood, J.D.**, Ogdensburg, N.J., and her husband, Eric A. Wood, welcome Kyle Austin, born Oct. 27, 2005. **Hussein Sadrudden, J.D., M.A.**, Frisco, is an attorney with the law firm of Jaime Barron PC in Dallas. **Donna Schneider, J.D.**, San Antonio, is corporate counsel for Clear Channel Communications. **Melvin A. "Matt" Todd, J.D.**, Kingwood, was named partner in the firm of Novak Druce & Quigg LLP.

■ **1999 David S. Galbreath, J.D.**, San Antonio, owns Orderup, a pizzeria/taqueria/burgeria, voted "Best New Off-Campus Restaurant" by Trinity University's campus newspaper. **Margaret Jones Hopson, J.D.**, was named to Scene Monthly magazine's 2005 listing of "Rising Stars in San Antonio's Legal Community." **Desiree Marie Leverett, J.D., B.B.A.** '96, Allen, is vice president of legal risk management for Countrywide Financial Corp. in Plano. **Pamela Peiser Linnins, J.D.**, Flagstaff, Ariz., has been promoted to Coconino Deputy County Attorney III. **Adriana Benavides Maddox, J.D., M.B.A., B.B.A.** '94, who opened her own law practice in Laredo, and **Edward Maddox, J.D.**, an attorney with the Laredo law offices of Jones & Gonzalez PC, welcome Alexandra Benavides, born Dec. 20, 2005. **Velma Cruz Silva, J.D.**, Austin, is government affairs manager for Sprint Nextel. **Charles C. "Coby" Waddill, J.D.**, Denton, an attorney with Hammerle Finley, is board certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

2000s

■ **2000 Rosendo Almaraz Jr., J.D., B.A.** '96, Weslaco, counsel at the law firm of Hagwood & Newmann, and his wife, Dora Galvan Almaraz, welcome Rosendo Cristian, born Feb. 2, 2005. **Christopher T. Massey, J.D.**, Tyler, is an associate attorney with The Wilson Law Firm.

■ **2001 John P. Jennings, J.D.**, was named to Scene Monthly magazine's 2005 listing of "Rising Stars in San Antonio's Legal Community." **J. Bradley Jones, J.D.**, was named to Scene Monthly magazine's 2005 listing of "Rising Stars in San Antonio's Legal Community." **Scott F. Lemanski, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, is a partner in the law firm of Lemanski & Waller PLLC. **Christopher M. McCormick, J.D.**, Lumberton, is an attorney with the law firm of Benckenstein & Oxford LLP. **Jon G. Moog, J.D.**, Helena, Mont., is an associate attorney with the law firm of Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman. **John M. Pool, J.D.**, Victoria, is assistant attorney in the Victoria County District Attorney's Office. **H. Christopher Waller, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, is a partner in the law firm of Lemanski & Waller PLLC. **Brian E. Warren, J.D.**, Houston, is an attorney with the law firm of Capitaine, Shellist & Warren LLP. **Christopher Yetman, J.D.**, San Antonio, is a shareholder in Yetman Law Firm PC.

■ **2002 Kristal M. Cordova, J.D.**, was named to Scene Monthly magazine's 2005 listing of "Rising Stars in San Antonio's Legal Community." **Elizabeth (Galvan) Yetman, J.D., B.A.** '98, San Antonio, is an attorney with David McQuade Leibowitz PC.

■ **2003 Katherine Marie Allen, J.D., M.A.**, Grapevine, has opened a solo law practice in Euless. **Ricardo A. Baca, J.D.**, Humble, and his wife, Orquidea Garcia, welcome Delicia Paz, born Oct. 25, 2005, who joins 3-year-old sister Divina Alegria. **Mercedes Salinas Espinosa, J.D.**, and **Pilar V. "Pete" Espinosa, J.D.**, McAllen, welcome Lucas, born April 12, 2005. **Michael C. Molloy, J.D.**, San Antonio, married Christy Allbright, April 9, 2005.

■ **2004 Jennifer O'Hara Calvin, J.D.**, Plano, and her husband, Darrell W. Calvin Jr., welcome Jacob Michael, born Aug. 23, 2005. **Marie Christine Cortez, J.D., B.A.** '01, Brownsville, is an associate attorney in the Law Offices of Ernesto Gamez. **Jose Rodriguez, J.D.**, has opened his own law offices in San Antonio. **Ryan C. Solis, J.D.**, McAllen, and his wife, Rebecca, welcome Asa Miguel, born April 19, 2005.

■ **2005 Casey A. Burns, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the San Antonio law offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc. **Christopher T. Hodge, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an associate attorney with the law offices of Langley & Banack Inc. **Sarah E. Logan, J.D.**, Orlando, Fla., has joined the law firm of GrayRobinson PA. **Catrina Purcell Longoria, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the law offices of Langley & Banack Inc. in Eagle Pass. **Lauren C. Sracic, J.D.**, an associate attorney in the San Antonio offices of Jackson Walker LLP, married Vito John Ciminello, Sept. 3, 2005. ■

54th Annual Red Mass Marks Beginning of Judicial Year

The St. Mary's University School of Law and the Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio sponsored the 54th annual Red Mass, the solemn votive Mass to mark the beginning of the judicial year Thursday, Oct. 26, at San Fernando Cathedral, 115 Main Plaza.

The Most Rev. José H. Gomez S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio, presided and the Most Rev. Patrick J. Zurek, auxiliary bishop of San Antonio gave the homily. Reflections were given by 225th District Court Judge John Specia Jr.

Red Mass is celebrated in many cities throughout the country and world. Judges, lawyers and officials of all faiths attend Red Mass to invoke God's blessings and guidance on the administration of justice.

Red Mass, a legal and judicial tradition since the reign of King Edward III in the early 14th century, marks the opening of the court term. The first Red Mass in the United States was celebrated in 1928. San Antonio revived the tradition 54 years ago. ■



Archbishop José H. Gomez celebrates Red Mass.

Calendar of Events



Jennifer Plemons was one of 241 St. Mary's law school students who received their juris doctorate degrees this past spring. Another seven students received their master of laws degrees during the ceremony at the Bill Greehey Arena. Next year's commencement ceremony will be held May 19.

October

Thursday, Oct. 26:
Red Mass, 6 p.m.
San Fernando Cathedral

November

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 24-25:
Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-
Jan. 8: Christmas Break

January

Monday, Jan. 9: Classes begin
Wednesday, Jan. 31:
Courtroom Dedication,
10:30 a.m.

February

Friday, Feb. 23: Sixth Annual
Law Journal Symposium on
Legal Malpractice, 9 a.m. to
4 p.m., Plaza Club, 100 W.
Houston St., San Antonio

March

Monday-Friday, March 12-16:
Spring Break
Friday, March 30:
Homecoming CLE Program,
Law Classroom Building

Friday, March 30:

Homecoming Reunion,
Alumni Room, Sarita
Kenedy East Law Library

Saturday, March 31:

Homecoming Mass, 4:30
p.m., Our Lady of
Guadalupe Chapel,
Treadaway Hall

Saturday, March 31:

Homecoming Oyster Bake,
6 p.m., Pecan Grove

April

Saturday, April 14: Law

Journal Banquet, 5 p.m.,
Omni La Mansion del Rio
Hotel, 112 College St., San
Antonio

Friday, April 20: Barrister's

Ball, time and location TBA.

Friday-Saturday, April 20-21:

Fiesta Oyster Bake

May

Saturday, May 19: Law School

Graduation, 1 p.m., Bill
Greehey Arena, Alumni
Athletics and Convocation
Center

LawNotes

The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

President

Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64)

School of Law Dean

Robert William "Bill" Piatt Jr.

Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

Victoria Mather

Associate Dean for Administration

Jeffery Addicott

Editor

Rob Leibold (M.A. '03)

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LawNotes is published twice a year by the St. Mary's University School of Law for alumni, friends and members of the community.

What's new? Let us hear from you!

Changed jobs? Been promoted? Received an award? Moved lately? Help keep us and alumni up-to-date on your accomplishments. You also can submit your information via e-mail to rleibold@stmarytx.edu or fax (210) 431-4388. **Fall 2006**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer/Firm Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Job Title: _____ Type of Business: _____

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Spouse's Name: _____

Is your spouse a St. Mary's graduate?: _____ Year _____

Degree: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Job Title: _____ Employer: _____

CLASS NOTES INFORMATION

Please indicate any information, such as name of new firm, significant verdicts, publications, awards, etc.

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



School of Law

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



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TYLA Moot Court Winners Celebrated



St. Mary's University School of Law recognized the student team that won the Texas Young Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition at the State Bar Convention in Dallas this summer with a school-wide celebration. TYLA President Karin Crump (front, right), with the law firm of Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom, LLP in Austin, was on hand to present the trophy. Pictured are (left to right): Ricky Poole, a 1990 St. Mary's School of Law graduate and coach of the winning team; Halina Radchenko and Kimberly Phillips, both third-year students; Alison Hicks, a 2006 graduate; and Bill Piatt, dean. This is the second time in the past four years that St. Mary's has won the championship.